

State of Maryland

2006 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
3240	SB890	647	HB230	Creation of a State Debt – Howard County - Robinson Nature Center
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Howard County Senators				Howard County Delegation
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)				5. Requested Amount
Howard County				\$500,000
6. Purpose of Bill				
Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$500,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the County Executive and County Council of Howard County for the planning, design, site improvements, construction, and capital equipping of the Robinson Nature Center located in Columbia.				
7. Matching Fund Requirements				
This bill requires a standard match.				
8. Special Provisions				
None.				
9. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)				
Howard County and more specifically the Department of Recreation and Parks will manage the day-to-day operation of the proposed nature center. The Department currently manages an 8,000 acre park system and is very capable of managing this facility. The Department currently has a Natural Resource Management Division with professional foresters, biologists and natural resource managers to provide the programming and educational component that will assure the success of this venture.				
10. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)				
This 17,000 square foot nature center will be constructed on an 18-acre parcel of land owned by Howard County and purchased with Program Open Space funds. The property is protected in perpetuity via the Program Open Space covenants within the deed. This 18-acre parcel connects to the 1,000 acre Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, also owned and managed by the County. This pristine Environmental Area protects the Middle Patuxent Watershed and offers a tremendous diversity of flora and fauna. The proposed Nature Center will be the first County-owned nature center, and it will provide a premiere venue for environmental education for County students and adults alike. The Nature Center will include: exhibit space, class/meeting rooms, a discovery room, an auditorium, a lab, library, photo lab, planetarium, observation room, butterfly house, a kitchen, lunch room, restrooms, offices, storage and equipment rooms.				
<i>Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 11 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 12 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.</i>				
11. Estimated Capital Costs				
Acquisition				
Design				\$ 300,000
Construction				\$3,100,000
Equipment				\$1,000,000
Total				\$4,400,000

Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
Howard County Government Office of Law 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043			
24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
1	3	\$138,600	\$358,000
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			
A. Will the grantee <u>own</u> or <u>lease</u> (pick one) the property to be improved?			Own
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee and any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	-0-		
Space to Be Renovated GSF			
New GSF	17,000		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion			N/A
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)			

28. Comments: This project is a testament to what can be accomplished when local government, state government and a private foundation pool their resources to achieve a lofty goal. Anne Robinson was passionate about preserving her land and providing opportunities for local children to observe and learn about nature. Through the Middle Patuxent Nature Center Foundation, she sold her property to Howard County at a below market price, and she donated \$1 million back to the County to help fund the County's first Nature Center. The State of Maryland through Program Open Space contributed \$1.7 million toward the land purchase and the County contributed the \$300,000 balance of the purchase price. This bond bill and local match will be combined with a \$1 million donation providing a total budget of \$2 million for this project. An additional \$2.4 million in funds will be pursued in later years from local, state and private sources. To honor James and Anne Robinson for their vision and philanthropy, the County wants to act immediately to make this Nature Center a reality. This Bond Bill will make certain that this project proceeds as scheduled.